

County News and Views

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From the Office of Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves

\$15 MILLION NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE GRANT

The Neighborhood Initiative Program, funded under legislation sponsored by Representative Jerry Lewis, is part of a \$42 million dollar federal program. Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, announced in a recent visit to the Inland Empire a \$15 million grant for San Bernardino, Redlands and Highland.

The agreement between the federal agency, the three cities and San Bernardino County will create the nation's first Neighborhood Initiative partnership. The innovative program is aimed at rehabilitating 1,000 foreclosed HUD homes over the next eighteen months.

HUD policies have contributed to deteriorating neighborhoods, particularly in San Bernardino. However, the entire process by which the Federal Housing Administration guarantees home loans has changed and the emerging partnership will serve as a national model.

Under the initiative, participating cities will buy groups of 10 to 30 homes in foreclosure in an area of two to four blocks at a discount from HUD. The homes will then be rehabilitated and sold to families who will be counseled about the maintenance responsibilities of home ownership.

At the same time, rundown homes in the area will be spruced up with new paint and other repairs. Homeowners who can't afford the repairs can defer payment until the house is sold. This is a very different way for government to do business and offers an opportunity to break the blight cycle in neighborhoods throughout San Bernardino.

Youth Programs Available For Fifth District Residents

Registration for the new Bloomington After-School Program began during a special kickoff event on May 30 at Smith Elementary School in Bloomington. Parents of children attending Crestmore, Grimes, Lewis, Smith or Zimmerman elementary schools in Bloomington may register for the Program. Classes began in July at the Smith Multipurpose Building. The after-school program is a joint effort of Supervisor Eaves, Colton School Board Member Marge Mendoza, Colton Superintendent Herb Fischer and Teddy Bear Tymes Childcare Center, Inc.

The Bloomington Swim Program has been revitalized as a result of the Supervisor's "keep in touch" meeting with Colton School Board members. Both Superintendent Herb Fischer and Board Member Marge Mendoza pointed out the need for a swim program.

Funding was provided by Fifth District Community development Block Grant Funds of \$35,000 and the pool was provided by the Colton School District. The Swim Program will run during the hottest months of the year from July 6 through August 28 at Bloomington Middle School. The cost is free for low to moderate income residents who are given a "summer swim pass". More information is available by calling (909) 876-4262.

The San Bernardino Boys and Girls Club Pool is open Monday through Saturday for club members. County Supervisor Eaves provided \$10,000 in Block Grant Funds to allow the pool to open for the hot, summer months. Further information is available from Boys and Girls Director Clifford Hackney (909) 888-6751.